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THE VOTER

VOL. 11, NO. 1

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE

OCTOBER 1993

TWO "FIRST LADIES" MEET



...in the
White House
Rose Garden
during
LWVUS
Council

June 1993

*To Marion Holshouser
With best wishes,
William Rodham Clinton*

From the President

A great many ideas were discussed at the July and September meetings for making the State Board's activities more productive and visible. At the same time, a lot of enthusiasm was generated for trying new approaches that would make better use of our time and talent. As a result, there will be fewer Board meetings, and we hope, more significant work will be done by sub-groups made up of Board Directors and local League representatives.

Planning continues to go forward. Janice Carpenter and Jean Fine will co-chair the **Keys to the Capitol Day** in February. **Quad State Council** (ME, NH, RI, VT) which meets in alternate years between state conventions, will be hosted by and held in Vermont the weekend of Apr. 29-May 1, 1994.

Applications have been received from the Department of Transportation for nominations to the seven (7) **Regional Transportation Advisory Committees**. These committees are a result of the new State Transportation Policy to ensure public participation in transportation planning and in advising the DOT in planning and prioritizing projects. Sherry Huber, Executive Director, Maine Waste Management Agency, has informed the League that we can nominate a representative to serve as a public member on a **Source Reduction Committee** of the **Council of Northeast Governors (CONEG)**. We are prepared to do so.

(Continued on Page 6)

ISSUES ON THE NOVEMBER 2 BALLOT



The November 2 ballot will ask Maine voters to decide on: Three bond issues, the term limits initiative, a constitutional amendment relating to state parks and other state-owned land, and a referendum on the low-level waste disposal contract. The explanatory material (below) for each issue was provided by the Secretary of State's office.

The three bond issues are presented first, introduced by a statement of State Board member Pat Cyphers:

"Our LWVUS national position in regard to Natural Resources is: 'Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest by recognizing the interrelationships of air quality, energy, land use, waste management and water resources.' (Impact on Issues, 1992-1994, Page 2.) The position states further: 'The League supports comprehensive long-range planning and believes that wise decision-making requires: consideration of environmental, public-health, social and economic impacts (*emphasis added*) of proposed plans and action.' (Impact on Issues, 1992-1994, Page 32.)

"Therefore this year, with the financial crisis in our State, your State Board is not taking a stand on the three bond issues which will be on the November ballot. Presented are (a) facts on the State's bonded indebtedness as of June 30, 1993, and what the total estimated additional debt will be if all three bond issues are approved in November and (b) an explanation of each bond proposal. They are numbered below as they will appear on the ballot." (Pat Cyphers)

2. Do you favor a \$5,000,000 bond issues to provide funds for the closure and remediation of municipal solid waste landfills?

(Total estimated debt including interest: \$5,652,500)

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is required to evaluate all Maine landfills open since 1976. This bond, if approved, would assist towns in planning/closing local solid waste landfills through a matching grant, primarily a 25% (town)/75% (DEP) split. DEP will pay 100% planning costs for municipalities with severely polluted landfills. Where DEP must revisit a closed landfill (remediation), matching funds are: 10% (town)/90% (DEP). This bond would add \$5 million to \$19 million already approved by voters.

3. Do you favor a \$39,500,000 bond issue for improvements to highways, state and local bridges, airports, cargo ports and the ferry service, which make the State eligible for up to \$125,500,000 in matching federal funds?

(Total estimated debt including interest: \$62,933,375)

Maine's 94-95 Transportation Improvement Program (TIF) goal is to provide a more balanced multi-modal transportation system for a broad array of transportation users, to provide a catalyst to develop an economically efficient and environmentally sound intermodal transportation system, and the means to move people and goods in an energy efficient manner. Funding for TIP projects is contingent, in part, upon passage of this bond issue.

4. Do you favor a \$15,150,000 bond issue for the construction of water pollution control facilities which will provide the match for \$20,000,000 in federal money?

(Total estimated debt including interest: \$19,316,250)

If approved, bond monies will be divided between Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Department of Conservation (DOC). DEP will receive \$4 million to match FY 94 Federal Capitalization Grant, \$1 million to eliminate individual overboard discharge systems, \$1 million for the Small Community Program, and \$6 million to

supplement the Farmers Home Mortgage Program. DOC will receive \$3,150,000 for leach field/septic system replacement in 14 State parks (\$1 million), replacement/conversion of toilet facilities in 7 State parks (\$1,250,000), central shower facilities at 5 State park campgrounds (\$750,000), and surface water treatment at 4 State parks (\$150,000).

TOTAL STATE INDEBTEDNESS -- CURRENT AND PROPOSED

Total to be Repaid on Outstanding Bonds (through Yr. 2008) \$700,241,365
(Principal and Interest)

Total (P&I) Estimated Additional Debt Potential if all
three bonds are approved November 2 87,902,125

Total Indebtedness (P&I) to be Paid in this
Fiscal Year (7/93-6/94) 88,292,300

Total Bonds Authorized but Unissued 134,420,600

The three additional questions that follow are also numbered as they will appear on the ballot.

INITIATIVE QUESTION

1. Do you favor the changes in Maine law concerning limiting the number of terms which may be served by Maine's State Legislators, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Attorney General and State Auditor proposed by citizen petition?

Passage of this initiative will limit the designated elected officials to 8 consecutive years in office. However, these elected officials can serve 8 years (or 4 terms) in one office, and then serve in another elected office, or, after a 2-year (1 term) grace period, again run for their original position.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

5. Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to protect state park or other designated conservation or recreation land by requiring a 2/3 vote of the Legislature to reduce it or change its purpose?

This constitutional amendment, if approved, would prohibit the sale or other transfer of State parks or memorials, unless approved by 2/3 of the State Legislature.

REFERENDUM QUESTION

6. Do you approve of the interstate compact to be made with Texas, Maine and Vermont for the disposal of the State's low-level radioactive waste at a proposed facility in the State of Texas?

If approved, this would enable Maine to have an agreement with Texas, whereby that State will take, for a period of 30 years, all of Maine's low-level radioactive waste. The upfront cost to Maine (\$27.5 million) will be paid by those who generate low-level radioactive waste, not Maine taxpayers. Maine generates about 10,000 cubic feet (the size of two train box cars) of such waste per year. Establishing a comparable low-level radioactive waste site in Maine would cost approximately \$100 million.

MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION

SPECIAL TREAT FOR LEAGUE MEMBERS !

This is no WHITEWASH! Honestly, we'll permit you to HELP! This is FUN! A PLEASANT WAY TO SPEND SOME TIME !!! REALLY !!!

The new State Government Study voted by delegates at the May, 1993, State Convention will get underway this fall with the help of League members throughout the state. Members are asked to secure their legislator's responses to League-posed questions focussed on the workings of the Maine State Legislature. The enclosed publication THIS IS YOUR LEGISLATURE will provide basic facts about the State Legislature.

Information about securing the legislator's responses as well as the questions to be asked will be supplied when members volunteer their services to any of the following State Government Committee members:

PORTLAND AREA LEAGUE: Jana LaPoint, 883-1233
BRUNSWICK AREA LEAGUE: Ruth Irwin, 729-1413
MOUNT DESERT ISLAND LEAGUE: Phyllis Charpentier, 244-5212
ELLSWORTH MAL UNIT: Pat Cyphers, 422-3625; Ethel Schwalbe, 546-7436 or Alvin and Ruth Moss, 422-3627.

Upon receipt of this VOTER, it is to be hoped that members will reach for the phone and contact one of the above Committee people, and offer help. This is a grassroots citizen participation opportunity. PLEASE, DO NOT MISS IT !

The findings from the legislators' responses will appear in a subsequent VOTER, along with the next study happening. Participate, and STAY TUNED !

Thanks ! *Ruth Moss*, Chair
State Government Committee

STATE GOVERNMENT STUDY -- SCOPE AND SCHEDULE

TITLE: "State Government: Study of the Maine Legislature"

PHASE I: How the Maine Legislature Works-----Including but not limited to:

Legislators, Committees, Chairpersons, Leadership (elected and appointed), Legislative Council, State Constitution, Rules, Cloture, Legislative Process, Hearings, Public Participation.

State Government Committee to obtain evaluation of various elements from Republican and Democratic members of the Legislative Council. All interested League members to survey their legislators (please see Page 4, this VOTER).

PHASE II: Identification of Problems and Possible Solutions

After having looked at the Legislature and its process and operation, and having seen what works and what appears not to be working, identify problems and suggest solutions.

PHASE III. Publication of Committee's Findings, CONSENSUS, ACTION

SCHEDULE: Phase I to start September 1993

Committee to report to LWVME Council, May 1994

Phase II to start early in Fall of 1994.

Have recommendations for improvement (based on problems

identified in first year of learning process) by Nov. 1994.

Reach consensus by beginning of 1st session of next legislature (117th), i.e., by January 1995.

SUGGESTED METHOD FOR COMMITTEE'S WORK: Two regional groups (Portland/Brunswick area and Ellsworth/MDI area) to work independently at beginning, each to develop a questionnaire for meeting with legislators and current leadership. Then meet as committee of the whole to discuss, combine and refine efforts.

RESOURCES FOR STUDY: Committee members and other interested League members to obtain items 2 through 5 individually through their legislators:

1. THIS IS YOUR LEGISLATURE (LWVME brochure). Copy with this VOTER.
2. 116th Legislature: LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL -- GUIDE TO ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION (revised Dec. 1992)
3. CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF MAINE -- Codification of 1993 with Supplemental Amendments
4. LEGISLATORS' HANDBOOK -- A Guide for Maine Legislators: Procedures, Services and Facts. January 1993. 7th edition.
5. SENATE (Page 93), HOUSE (page 170) and JOINT (page 201) RULES, to be found in 1993 SENATE AND HOUSE REGISTERS (116TH LEGISLATURE) at pages just noted. (State Government Committee Chair Ruth Moss says: "Look at but be prepared for changes. The Legislature's Rules Committee met on August 31.")

--Adopted by the State Government Committee, August 31 and September 15, 1993.

HEALTH CARE ADVOCACY

The Portland Area LWV and the Brunswick Area LWV will see that each legislator in the coastal area from Wiscasset and south to the New Hampshire border receives a letter stating LWVME's state health care position, our support of LD 1285 (see pp 7-10) and a request for information on the legislator's view on the issue. The MDI League and the LWV MAL units in the Mid-Coast area and Greater Ellsworth area will be asked to perform the same task for each legislator from their respective areas. We plan to have every member of the state legislature receive such a letter from a League group in his or her district.

SOS to all MAL members in other areas of the state who would like to assist in this program of advocacy; Please write to Ruth Benedikt, LWVME Health Care Chair, at RT 8, Box 5559, Brunswick, ME 04011. Tell her the names of your legislators and she will mail you a copy of the information packet to be sent to each one.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters sent to the VOTER editor will be accepted from LWV members, based on space and appropriateness to current LWV program. Letters must be limited to no more than 100 words, in addition to the authors name, address, phone number and LWV affiliation.

FROM THE PRESIDENT.....Continued from Page 1

WLAC, the Womens Legislative Agenda Coalition, has been restructured and we have again elected to be part of that coalition. WLAC will have a lobbyist in Augusta which should be of help to the League as well.

Local Leagues will be holding educational meetings in October on the pros and cons of term limits for state legislators, a measure to be voted upon in November. LWVME has not taken a position on this question so it will be up to each one of us to make a choice. (Ed. Note: See July VOTER for Pros and Cons of term limits.)

Much will be heard from the Health Care Committee. This is not only a hot topic on the national level but also here in Maine where a Health Care bill may be considered by the State Legislature at its next session. (Ed. Note: See pages 7 through 10, this VOTER.) Some of us attended Senator William Cohen's day-long Conference on Long Term Care held in Augusta on September 13. It was good to learn that Maine has been a leader in this area.

The State Government Study Committee has been very active in putting together the scope, procedures and timetable for their work. You will be hearing much more from them in the very near future as you might surmise from the Chair's (Ruth Moss) report elsewhere in this VOTER. (See pages 4 and 5.)

We do want to hear from you and we shall continue to keep you aware of developments.
--Marian Holshouser

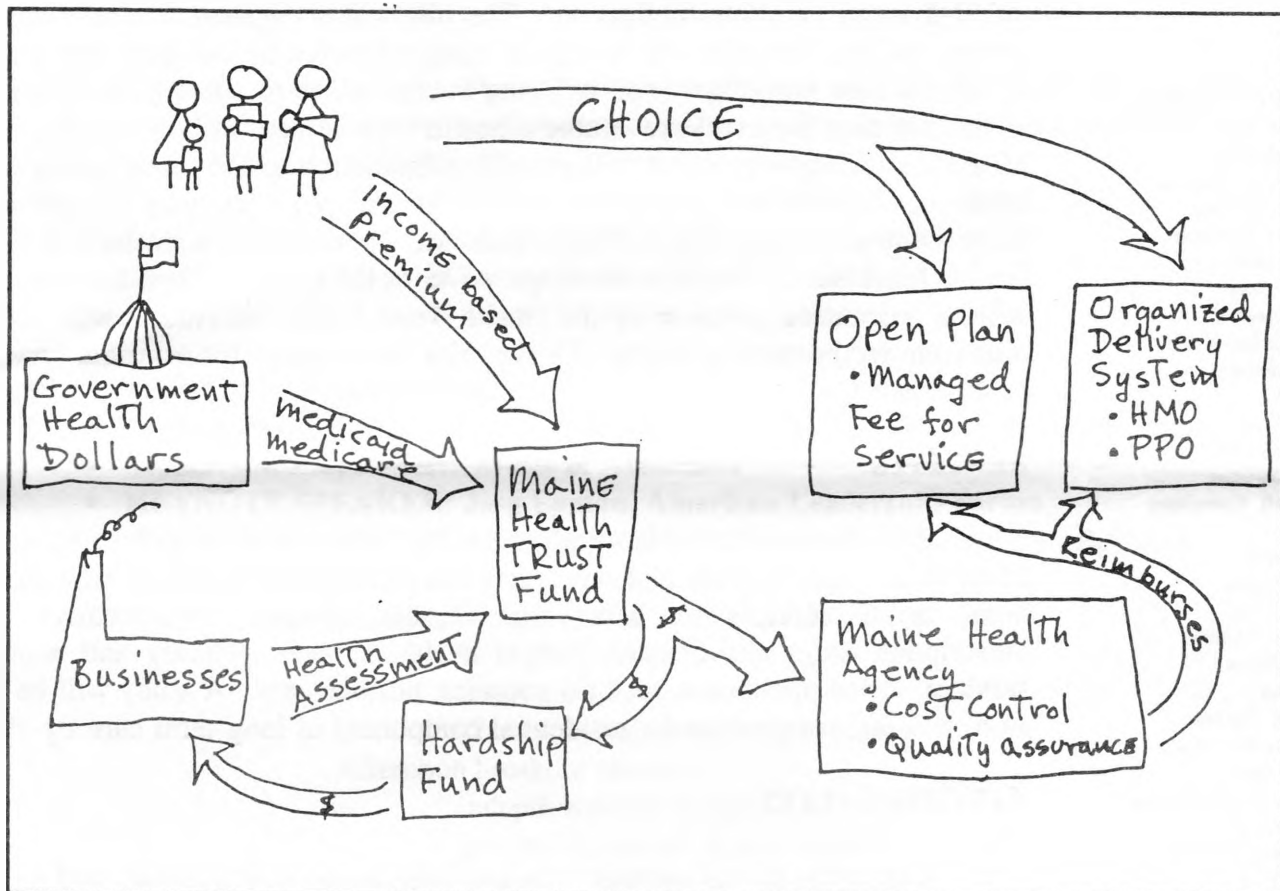
OUR HEALTH CARE PROBLEM

Out of control health care costs threaten the security of our families. If we don't act now Maine businesses and families will be paying \$13,422 per family for health care in 2000. Every year we wait the cost of the solution goes up.

THE SOLUTION

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FAMILY SECURITY THROUGH QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

Senator Dale McCormick Representative Charlene Rydell



FAMILIES WIN

BUSINESSES WIN

PROVIDERS WIN

1. Everyone is covered for all inpatient, outpatient, and dental services. Health care is no longer linked to employment.
2. Individuals choose their provider.
3. Individuals pay one income-based premium to the Maine Health Trust Fund and that is all--no billing, no out of pocket expenses.
4. Businesses pay a Health Assessment to the Maine Health Trust Fund and are not responsible for negotiating or maintaining a health plan for employees.
5. Confusing paperwork is eliminated.
6. Maine Health Agency manages the Maine Health Trust Fund, controls costs, reimburses providers, assures quality, and plans the system.

SPONSORS

to date

Senate

Dale McCormick, *Monmouth*
Jim Handy, *Lewiston*
Chellie Pingree, *No. Haven*
Judy Paradis, *Frenchville*
Beverly Bustin, *Augusta*
Jerry Conley, *Portland*
Mark Lawrence, *Kittery*
Michael Pearson, *Ersfield*
Bonnie Titcomb, *Casco*
Don Esty, *Westbrook*
Dennis Dutremble, *Biddeford*

House

Charlene Rydell, *Brunswick*
Reed Coles, *Harpwell*
Ruth Joseph, *Waterville*
Steve Simonds, *Cape Elizabeth*
Eliza Townsend, *Portland*
Louise Townsend, *Cornville*
Constance Cote, *Auburn*
Donnell Carroll, *Gray*
Phyllis Erwin, *Rumford*
Rita Melendy, *Rockland*
Hugh Morrison, *Bangor*
Ed Pineau, *Jay*
Richard Tracy, *Rome*
Susan Farnsworth, *Hallowell*
Roger Pouliot, *Lewiston*
Elizabeth Mitchell, *Vassalboro*
Guy Nadeau, *Saco*
Susan Dore, *Auburn*
Sharon Treat, *Gardiner*
Herb Adams, *Portland*
Michael Breunna, *Portland*
Mary Cathcart, *Orono*
Gail Chase, *China*
Lorraine Chonko, *Topsham*
Pete Cloutier, *South Portland*
Anne Rand, *Portland*
Virginia Constantine, *Bar Harbor*
Sean Faircloth, *Bangor*
Michael Fitzpatrick, *Durham*
Donald Gean, *Alfred*
Richard Gould, *Greenville*
Carol Kontos, *Windham*
Clyde Hichborn, *Howland*
Annette Hoglund, *Portland*
Maria Holt, *Bath*
George Kerr, *Old Orchard Beach*
Marge Kilkelly, *Wiscasset*
Dan Gwadosky, *Fairfield*
Michael Michaud, *E. Millinocket*
Pat Paradis, *Augusta*
Sophia Pfeiffer, *Brunswick*
Jim Mitchell, *Freeport*
Elizabeth Pinette, *Frenchville*
Jane Saxl, *Bangor*
Kassie Stevens, *Bangor*
Ellen Walker, *Blue Hill*
John L. Martin, *Eagle Lake*
Steve Rowe, *Portland*

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FAMILY SECURITY THROUGH QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

OVERVIEW

The Family Security Act will make health coverage a right of citizenship rather than an employer obligation. The bill will reorganize Maine's health care system so that everyone has access to comprehensive health care that follows us whether we are working or not, or living in rural areas or cities. To ensure quality, affordable care for everyone Maine's health care system will be managed by the Maine Health Agency, which will simplify administration and set spending and price limits for hospitals and providers. Each of us will pay only once for health care: a premium to the Maine Health Trust Fund. The agency will be trustees of the Maine Health Trust Fund and will be the single payer of the system. Providers and hospitals will be guaranteed payment by the Health Trust Fund. Individuals will not receive bills from the hospital or doctor. Deductibles and co-pays for essential services will be eliminated.

BENEFITS

The Maine Health Plan will cover inpatient and outpatient services such as hospital services, medical and other licensed professional services, laboratory tests, home health services for acute and chronic illnesses, rehabilitative services, prescription drugs and devices, mental health services, primary and acute dental services, vision appliances, medical supplies, hospice care. A study will be initiated as to how best to provide the residential component of long term care by 1995.

AFFORDABILITY

Currently, Maine's health care costs are born by individuals and businesses. Our proposal will keep that mix, but instead of paying nine ways for health care (premiums, co-pays, out of pocket expenses, workers comp, auto insurance, and federal, state and local taxes) businesses and individuals will pay once into the Maine Health Trust Fund. The cost of our health care under the new system will be equitably distributed throughout the population. The premium for each person will be based on a percentage of wages and unearned income. Businesses will pay a health assessment into the Maine Health Trust Fund. Fairness adjustments for low income individuals will be available. There will be a hardship fund to help low wage, new, or struggling businesses.

SAVE THE DATE

MAINE CONSENSUS PROJECT

Statewide Conference

Building Agreement: Collaborative Approaches to Public Policy

Tuesday December 7, 1993

Augusta Civic Center

Augusta, Maine

8:30 to 4:30

Please join us to launch the Maine Consensus Project and to introduce the concepts of dispute resolution and consensus building to public policy decision makers in Maine.

What are win/win negotiations?

Does consensus conflict with advocacy?

What is collaborative problem solving?

What does it mean for Maine?

- ♦ **PRINCIPAL INSTRUCTORS:**
- ♦ **William Potapchuk, Executive Director, Center for Community Problem Solving**
- ♦ **Roberta Miller, Roberta Miller & Associates**
- ♦ **KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Jing Lyman, American Leadership Forum**
- ♦ **WORKSHOP LEADERS INCLUDE: Pam Plumb, Ann Gosline, Jon Reitman**

Morning plenary session

- * Role play presentation
- * Small group discussion
- * Theory, background, key principles

Afternoon breakout sessions

- * Indepth analysis of case studies
- * Success stories of Maine projects

Concluding session with primary instructors

**Maine Consensus Project, 565 Congress Street -- Suite 301
Portland, Maine 04101**

For further information contact John Walker or Anne Schink at (207) 871-1885

Please add me to your mailing list for the conference and for information about the Maine Consensus Project.

Name _____ Telephone # _____

Address _____

Mail to: Maine Consensus Project, 565 Congress Street, Suite 301, Portland, Maine 04101

CHOICE OF PROVIDER

Each of us will be able to choose our hospital, doctor, or other service provider. Each resident will be able to choose between the open plan (your current doctor) or any HMO (Health Maintenance Organization) or PPO (Preferred Provider Organization) that meets the system criteria for services and price.

COST CONTROLS

Primary care providers will be the point of entry into the health care system and case management will be utilized to reduce unnecessary services. Emphasis on primary and preventive care will reverse incentives in the present system that overly reward high cost specialty procedures. The Maine Health Agency will set expenditure targets will be set each year for hospitals and health care providers in order to bring medical inflation in line with general inflation and the Maine wage index. An enforcement mechanism will be included to ensure that expenditure targets are attained. A system of resource based rate setting for providers will help emphasize primary and preventive care as well as assist in controlling costs. The Maine Health Agency will review malpractice costs and work with providers to ensure the lowest rates possible.

SAVINGS

Unifying the administration of our health care system into one publicly accountable, non-profit agency will save \$270 million on insurance paper work and bureaucracy. Consumers will encounter a simplified health care system for which they pay once, will receive no bills, and will not be required to pay either co-pays nor deductibles. Under this system workers comp premiums of all businesses will be reduced by 40% totaling a \$120 million/year savings for businesses. The Maine Health Agency will consolidate the many bureaus and agencies that currently oversee parts of our health care into one.

STRUCTURE

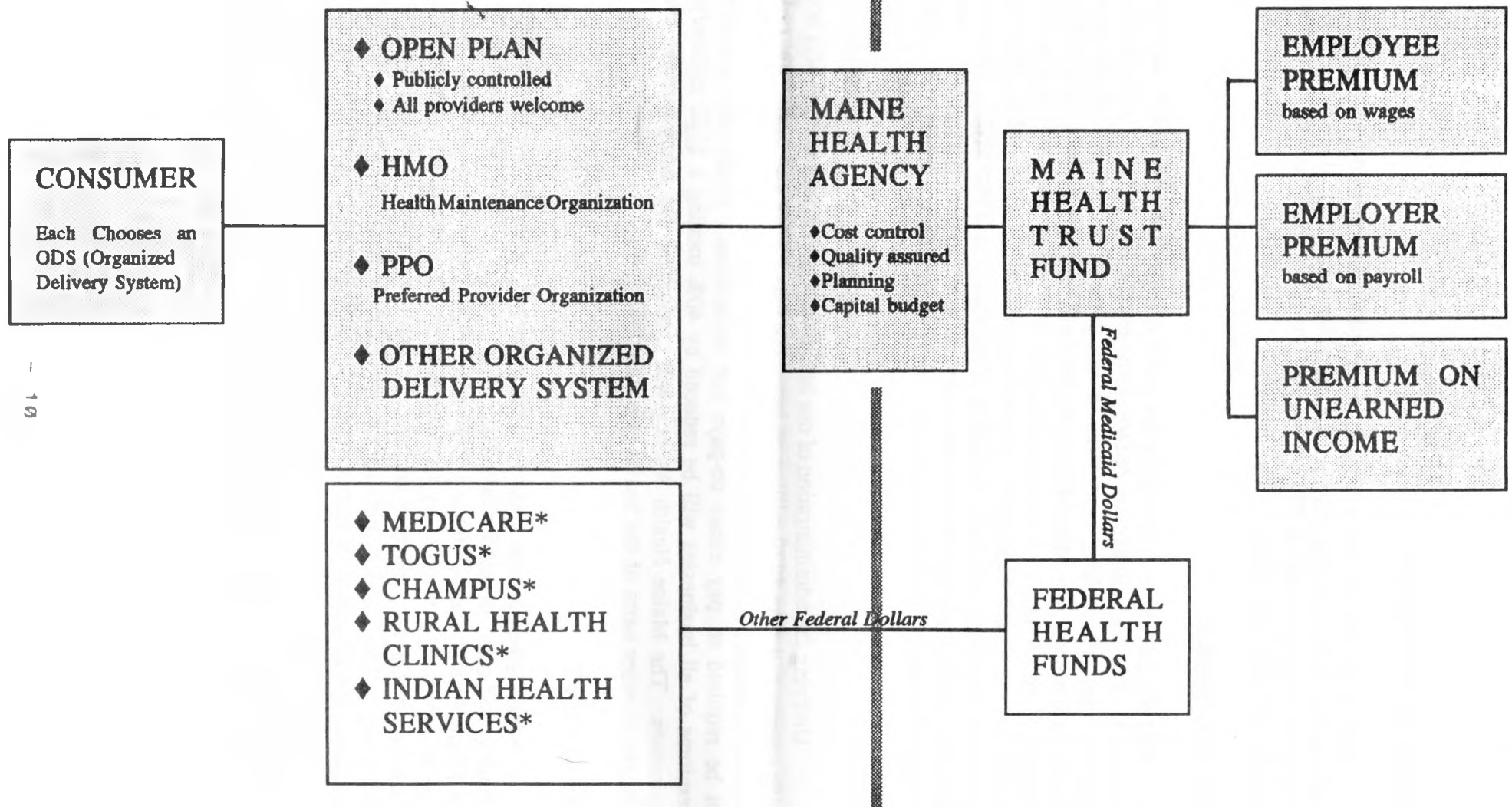
Maine's health care system will be managed by the Maine Health Agency that will set spending and price targets for hospitals and providers. The agency will also be the Trustees of the Maine Health Trust Fund and will be the single payer of the system. Doctor and hospitals will be guaranteed payment by the Health Fund. There will be a strong emphasis on health planning so that our resources are used to promote preventive and primary care. The Maine Health Agency will collect and analyze health data to improve quality of care, reduce costs, and to balance the allocation of health resources so that people who live in rural Maine receive care comparable to those living in urban areas. Regional advisory panels representing providers, businesses, and consumers will ensure that community needs are met. The agency will apply for necessary federal waivers, and will propose a plan for the retraining of workers displaced by the new plan. There will be a special board to handle consumer complaints or abuses of the system.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FAMILY SECURITY THROUGH QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

Prime Sponsors: Senator Dale McCormick and Rep. Charlene Rydell

Health Care Delivery System

Single Payor System



*Unless waivers are received from Federal Government, Federal monies will continue to fund starred programs separately

CITIZENS' FORUM
on the
NATIONAL BUDGET

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14
1:30 p.m.

BATES COLLEGE CHAPEL
LEWISTON

Co-sponsored by: The League of Women Voters of Maine, the Concord
Coalition (Maine Chapter) and Bates College

AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET BEYOND RHETORIC

What are we willing to give up to bring the deficit down?

PANELISTS

Marion Holshouser, Pres., LWVME

David Peterson, co-Pres., Maine
Chptr. Concord Coalition

Prof. David Aschauer, Bates College
Professor of Economics in an
Endowed Chair

Gary Higginbottom, Bangor
owner of a small hi-tech
business

W. G. (Bud) Gallie, Portland

A Bates College student (not yet
chosen at press time)

All members of Maine's
Congressional Delegation
have tentatively agreed
to participate:

Sen. William Cohen

Sen. George Mitchell

Rep. Olympia Snowe

Rep. Thomas Andrews

FORMAT

1:30 - 1:45	Introductions and explanation of format
1:45 - 2:45	Panelists-legislators dialogue. (Questions to legislators--who may also (after answering) toss question back, e.g., "What is <u>your</u> solution?")
2:45 - 3:30	Audience questions

LWVUS: "NO" to TERM LIMITS

*Excerpts from the National Voter, Dec-Jan 1992
(Paragraph Headings added for this VOTER)*

(Ed. Note: The LWVUS position applies only to national elections (state Leagues are free to take either pro or con positions on term limit proposals for state legislatures), but the national League's reasoning and arguments apply equally well to the state level.)

BASIS OF POSITION: "The League of Women Voters opposes term limitations for members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, based on our longstanding positions on Congress and the Presidency. The League's position on Congress calls for accountability, representativeness and effective performance. Our position on the presidency states that 'presidential power should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a dynamic balance between the executive and legislative branches.'"

Would weaken legislative branch: "Term limitations are the wrong remedy for the serious problems that beset our system. Term limitations would seriously weaken the legislative branch and further upset the balance of power between Congress and an already powerful presidency."

Citizen legislatures? "The notion that limiting terms of members of Congress will create a citizen legislature "of the people" is a romantic view of modern legislatures. Advocates for term limits argue that those who run for Congress knowing that in a few years they will return to private life will somehow better represent the people's interests. This simplistic view of the legislator's task ignores the complexities of policy making, which requires expertise and issue specialization.".....

"And who is likely to serve in Congress on a temporary basis? Political scientist Nelson Polsby argues that members of a term-limit Congress are likely to be the old, the rich and the bought."

"Special interests": More or less powerful? "Those who argue for an amateur Congress expect term limits to weaken the special interests' hold on the legislative process. The opposite is more likely. Without campaign finance reform, these amateur legislators would be even more dependent on special interest funds to get elected and more likely to reward campaign contributors with greater access. Why would a legislator whose term cannot be renewed be accountable to the voters?" (Emphasis added.)

"Meat-ax" approach vs. informed choice: "Term limitations deny voters the right to choose those who they think best represent their interests. Voters already have the power to limit the terms of members of Congress by denying them election at the polls. The meat-axe approach of term limitations does not distinguish between legislators whose careers deserve to be cut short and those who deserve reelection."

Real reforms: "Rather than focus on simplistic, quick-fix mirage solutions, we need to adopt the difficult but essential reforms that will reinvigorate the election system, increase the competitiveness of congressional races, strengthen the links between the people and their representatives and enhance the balance of powers."

(Susan Lederman, then-president, LWVUS)

*Thank
you
Jana
for
making
Convention
'93
bloom!*

Tulip



Iris



Daffodil



NOTICE TO MAINE LEAGUE MEMBERS
TELL US IF YOU OBJECT TO DROPPING OLD STATE POSITIONS

The July 1993 VOTER (Page 5) reported that LWVME Convention delegates had voted "to study and reevaluate our State Government positions," that the positions were adopted for the most part in the 1960's and also that (with the exception of a minor addition in 1987) the last time we updated our positions on state government was in 1973. After much discussion, the new State Government Study committee recommended and the State Board approved the following: Drop all existing positions on State Government unless there is objection from our members.

The Committee and Board therefore ask that any League member who objects to this proposal (or thinks she may object upon reviewing existing positions) let one of the following persons know of your objection or possible objection. (Ask for a copy of the "state government positions" if you need them.) Ruth Moss, P.O. Box 305, Sorrento, ME 04677 or Janice Carpenter, 9 West Commonwealth Drive, Portland, ME 04103.

MEET JEAN SMITH
CO-COORDINATOR FOR MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Jean Barr Smith has been an enthusiastic League member for over forty years, holding at one time or another most board positions. However, it is with mathematics and the teaching of it, particularly to the non-traditional students, who are convinced that they will never be able to learn it, that is her greatest involvement.

Over the course of her teaching career she developed a national and international reputation in the field of math anxiety, serving as consultant to a variety of colleges both here and abroad. She is the recipient of many awards including Colby's Outstanding Educator Award and the American Mathematical Association of the Two-Year Colleges' Mathematical Excellence Award. A year ago her college dedicated their new library to her.

**"ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT" OF
HEALTH STANDARDS FOR FISH**

"Scattered analysis of fish tissue in Maine lakes has revealed some high concentrations (of mercury) in fish tissue in certain lakes and species....Over half of the samples of fish from Canada exceed the Canadian health standards of .5mg/l and many of the samples from Maine lakes approached the U.S. health standard of 1.0mg/l. *The U.S. standard was raised from .5mg/l to 1.0mg/l when concentrations of mercury in swordfish were found to exceed .5 mg/l. The process is known as economic adjustment of health standards.*" (Italics added for emphasis.)

FROM: DEP Link (Newsletter of Maine DEP) 8/93, via Ruth Benedikt, Chair, LWVME Health Care Committee

A HOLSHOUSER HELPS LATVIA



It's in the blood, apparently. Like her mother, LWVME president Marion Holshouser, Donna Holshouser Stinson is working--without pay-- to further the democratic process. In Donna's case, it's helping "birth" the democratic process, for her pro bono stint is in the formerly Communist Latvia. The American Bar Association program under which she is working provides attorneys who assist the native legal systems in a variety of ways, ranging from judicial reform to reviewing criminal and administrative law procedures to drafting new constitutions. Following Latvia's first free elections since independence (held in June), Donna expected to be asked to provide assistance in rewriting Latvia's constitution and reviewing the entire legal system.

Donna started her year's assignment in Riga, Latvia's capital, alone, but was joined later by her husband and their two young children. They live in an apartment that's almost "luxury"--because it has a heating device in the shower. "I'm the only one I know who can count on at least a tepid shower--when the water is running," Donna reported. (The water is shut off periodically for economic reasons.) She also reported that while Latvia is having a difficult transition to a free-market economy, it does not seem as bleak as some Eastern European countries. People told her they used to have to stand in line to buy bread, now it is sold on every corner.

It's not surprising that a commitment to public service is a Holshouser trait!

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IN THIS ISSUE

TOPIC	PAGE
President's Message	1
Issues on the November 2 Ballot	2 and 3
"May I Have Your Attention?" (Ruth Moss)	4
State Government Study--Scope and Schedule	5
S.O.S.--Health Care Advocacy Needed	6
Centerfold--for easy removal and retention: Information on Health Care Proposal for Maine--LD 1285	7 thru 10
Nov. 14 Forum on the Federal Deficit and Budget (w/ the Maine delegation)	11
LWVUS: "NO" To Term Limits	12
THANK YOU, JANA!	13
Notice to Maine League Members	14
Meet Jean Smith (MAL Co-Coordinator)	14
"Economic Adjustment" to Health Standards for Fish	14
A Holshouser Helps Latvia	15
1994 League Appointment Calendars--with Order Blank!	15

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